

Message

From: Nurk, Virginia (she/her/hers) [Nurk.Virginia@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/26/2023 4:21:27 PM
To: Scott, Gail [Scott.Gail@epa.gov]; White, Terri-A [White.Terri-A@epa.gov]; Landis, Jeffrey [Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; Dean, Terri (she/her/hers) [Dean.Terri@epa.gov]; Leonard, Paul [leonard.paul@epa.gov]; Towle, Michael [Towle.Michael@epa.gov]; Libertz, Catherine [Libertz.Catherine@epa.gov]; Wisniewski, Patti-Kay (she/her/hers) [Wisniewski.Patti-Kay@epa.gov]; Richardson, William [Richardson.William@epa.gov]; Crumlish, Karen [Crumlish.Karen@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Draft DEP press release on latex spill

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Shader, Neil" <nshader@pa.gov>
Date: March 26, 2023 at 12:20:03 PM EDT
To: "Nurk, Virginia (she/her/hers)" <Nurk.Virginia@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Draft DEP press release on latex spill

So you know what we're doing. Will keep you posted on final

Neil Shader | Director of Communications | He/His/Him
Department of Environmental Protection | Office of Communications
400 Market Street | Harrisburg, PA 17105
Phone: 717.787.1323 | Mobile: 717.649.8563 | Twitter: @PennsylvaniaDEP
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From: Shader, Neil
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2023 12:20 PM
To: Lapowsky, Rosie <rlapowsky@pa.gov>
Cc: Berardi, Stephanie <sberardi@pa.gov>; Thrasher, Jamar <jthrasher@pa.gov>
Subject: Draft DEP press release on latex spill

Hi Rosie – pasted below is the draft news release on the latex spill. Not sure if this has filtered to you or not but the Philadelphia water Department has issued a "Do Not Drink" advisory for the time being



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2023

MEDIA CONTACT: Stephanie Berardi, sberardi@pa.gov

DEP Update on Delaware River Pollution Event

Acrylic latex product released into the Delaware River

Bristol, PA – On Friday, March 24, 2023, at approximately 11:30pm the Department of Environmental Protection's emergency response team responded to a release of approximately 8,100 gallons of acrylic latex polymer that was released by a chemical processing plant and an unknown amount has entered the Delaware River. The incident occurred at Trinseo Altuglas Facility in Bristol, Bucks County Pennsylvania. Downstream and nearby systems were alerted because of the tidal flow of the Delaware.

The DEP is working closely with utility companies; Aqua Pennsylvania, Lower Bucks Joint Municipal Authority, Philadelphia Water Department, and New Jersey American, city officials, and other government agencies to ensure that the safety of drinking water is not compromised. Ongoing water sampling is being conducted at various locations. Contaminants have not been detected at drinking water intakes at this time. There have not been any signs of fish or wildlife impacts. The Philadelphia Water Department has issued a "Do Not Drink" advisory for their customers out of an abundance of caution.

"DEP has been at the facility where the spill originated since Friday night and will be staying until we are satisfied that there is no longer a threat to possibly affected users," said DEP Acting Secretary Rich Negrin. "We are working closely with our partners to monitor the spread of the contaminants and will hold the responsible party accountable."

The substance is water soluble and may have a paint odor but is visible in the Delaware River. It appears as a milky white substance in the river. Officials from each agency: DEP, EPA, US Coast Guard, and the PA Fish and Boat Commission are working to determine if there are any risks to the public or wildlife. Please check with your local water supplier to determine if you should take any precautions. DEP and other agencies will continue to monitor the plume and provide the latest updates as more information becomes available.

As of early morning March 26, 2023, no additional product was leaving the facility and entering the Delaware River. DEP staff will remain on-site to investigate the cause and impacts of the spill.

For more information on the [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](https://www.dep.state.pa.us/), please visit [the website](https://www.dep.state.pa.us/) or follow DEP on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaDEP/), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/PennsylvaniaDEP/), or [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/pennsylvania-dep/)

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